

HOUSE RESOLUTION 187

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Metro Nashville Arts Commission upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this body to recognize those venerable cultural institutions that exist to foster and perpetuate the arts and, in doing so, contribute significantly to the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Nashville Arts Commission is one such organization, and this year, it celebrates its fortieth anniversary, marking four decades of supporting local artists and driving a more equitable and vibrant community through the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, or "Metro Arts," was created by ordinance in December 1978 under the administration of Mayor Richard Fulton; in its forty-year history, the agency has supported and spurred innovation in Nashville's arts and culture sector through a variety of investments, programs, and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these investments, programs, and initiatives include hosting the Summer Lights Festival for more than a decade; initiating and managing the largest municipal cultural grant-making program in the State; and investing operational funds in start-up cultural organizations that are now key leaders of Nashville's cultural landscape, including Alias Chamber Ensemble, Actors Bridge Ensemble, African American Cultural Alliance, Intersection, TN Craft, Global Education Center, and Southern Word; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts is also responsible for leading the passage of State legislation to establish a publicly funded public art program; establishing the THRIVE neighborhood funding program and the Learning Lab Artist Training program, which are both national creative place-making models; launching a comprehensive race equity in the arts initiative; and establishing an

arts-integrated intervention system for court-involved youth through a coalition of government agencies, nonprofits, and individual artists; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the commission's forty years of service in the community, there will be a year-long series of projects, events, and activities, including an #OurArtsNash photo contest and the "40 for 40" project, a pilot program to acquire two-dimensional works of art in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, oil, textile, and mixed media, created by local artists for public spaces in Metro buildings; these works will join fifty other pieces that form the city's "One Percent for Art" public collection; and

WHEREAS, in tandem with its fortieth anniversary, Metro Arts has unveiled a new visual brand for the agency, one that reflects the cultural vibrancy of the city and includes the new official tag "Nashville's Office of Arts + Culture," a nod to the broader role Metro Arts has in community partnership coordination, interdepartmental arts integration, and national cultural policy innovation; and

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-year history, Metro Arts has supported the growth of art in the public realm as well as increases in arts funding and partnerships with local schools, galleries, and cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the commission's work, Nashville has been recognized by the National Center for Arts Research as second in the nation in cultural vibrancy; the commission continues to increase support for local artists and focus on policy and practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, setting a national standard of innovation through cross-sector partnerships and programming; and

WHEREAS, Metro Arts has made it its mission to integrate art into all areas of life, public transit, parks, and libraries; to lift up cultural stories and narratives of all Nashvillians; and to engender citizen engagement with artists and cultural life; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Nashville Arts Commission has enriched the arts and culture of Nashville and the lives of Nashvillians for four decades, and it is fitting that the organization be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the Metro Nashville Arts Commission upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, extending our sincere gratitude for the good work of this organization and our best wishes for its continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.